

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 AID-05 HEW-04 EB-07 AF-10
ARA-06 EUR-12 NEA-10 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
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P 200907Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 51

INFO USMISSION USNUN PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNICEF

SUBJECT: UNICEF EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING (MANILA):

DRAFT TEXT OF SPEECH

1. REVISED DRAFT TEXT OF SPEECH WE PROPOSE DELIVER DURING
GENERAL DEBATE FOLLOWS: BEGIN TEXT. MR. CHARIMAN, (PRESIDENT
OR MRS. MARCOS; ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER), ONCE AGAIN WE ARE
MET TO CONSIDER HOW BEST TO ADVANCE THE WELFARE OF CHILDREN
IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD. MY DELEGATION IS ESPECIALLY PLEASED
AT THE CHOICE OF THE SITE OF THIS YEAR'S MEETING. FOR NEARLY
EIGHTY YEARS THE PHILIPPINES AND THE UNITED STATES HAVE BEEN
ASSOCIATED IN MANY CONSTRUCTIVE WAYS. TODAY WE ARE MEETING
IN THIS LOVERLY CENTER AS THE GUEST OF THE PHILIPPINE GOVEER-
MENT, IN THE CAPITAL OF THE FIRST OF THE NEW NATIONS TO
EMERGE IN 1946. UNICEF ALSO HAS ITS ROOTS AT THIS SAME POINT
IN HISTORY. AS YOU MAY RECALL, UNICEF'S INITIAL OBJECTIVE
WAS TO PROVIDE PRIMARILY SHORT TERM RELIEF ASSISTANCE TO
CHILDREN. THE UNICEF OF TODAY IS A MUCH BROADER-GAUGED
INSTITUTION, ITS PURPOSES GO FAR BEYOND EMERGENCY MEASURES
TO ENCOMPASS LONG RANGE DEVELOPMENT TO CARE FOR MOTHERS AND
CHILDREN, TO BE THE ARCHITECT AND ADVOCATE OF THE BASIC
SERVICES STRATEGY, A CONCEPT DEALING WITH THE PROBLEMS OF
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HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND NUTRITION IN AN INTEGRATED MANNER
AT THE COMMUNITY LEVEL, WITH THE CHILD AS ITS FOCUS.

2. WHAT NOBLER PURSUIT CAN AN ORGANIZATION OR NATION WISH,
THAN, AS PRESIDENT MARCOS SAID SO ELOQUENTLY ON THE OPENING
DAY OF OUR MEETINGS, TO BRING TO THEIR FULL FRUITION THE
BODIES AND MINDS OF FUTURE CITIZENS? IT IS OUR TASK HERE

TO JUDGE WHAT THE PAST YEAR HAS BROUGHT AND TO PLAN BETTER
FOR THSOE YEARS TO COME IN THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THIS GOAL.

3. MR. CHAIRMAN, WE HAVE BEFORE US AN EXCELLENT AND INFORMATIVE
PROGRESS REPORT ASSEMBLED AND WRITTEN BY THE DISTINGUISHED
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND HIS FINE STAFF. THE US DELEGATION
WISHES TO COMPLIMENT HIM AND THEM ON THEIR PERFORMANCE, NOT
ONLY IN THE PREPARATION OF THE REPORT, BUT ALSO ON THE
WORK ON BEHALF OF CHILDREN WHICH IT REPRESENTS.

4. THIS PAST YEAR HAS BEEN, AS I BELIEVE THE EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR SUGGESTED IT MIGHT, A YEAR OF PAUSE TO CONSOLIDATE.
INDEED, UNICEF EXPENDITURES FELL OFF SLIGHTLY DURING THE
YEAR. NOW, HOWEVER, IT IS TIME TO PUSH AHEAD TO MEET THE
CRUSHING NEEDS OF CHILDREN AND THEIR MOTHERS EVERYWHERE. THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS HAS SET A GOAL OF
\$200 MILLION IN EXPENDITURES FOR UNICEF, AND THE EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR HAS SUGGESTED THAT WE REACH IT BY 1979 WHEN THE
WORLD WILL CELEBRATE THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD.
THIS IS A DIFFICULT GOAL BUT NOT, I THINK, AN IMPOSSIBLE
ONE, IF ALL OF US TRY HARD. THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS NOW
ASKED OUR CONGRESS TO APPROPRIATE \$25 MILLION FOR UNICEF
GENERAL RESOURCES FOR 1978, A 25 PERCENT INCREASE. MY
DELEGATION HOPES THAT OTHER COUNTRIES WILL SEEK TO MAKE
SIMILAR EFFORTS. IN PARTICULAR, WE HOPE THAT THOSE COUNTRIES
WHICH HAVE BENEFITTED GREATLY FROM THE INCREASE IN WORLD
ENERGY PRICES WILL SEE FIT TO GIVE GENEROUSLY TO UNICEF.
WE WOULD ALSO HOPE THAT THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH GIVE RESTRICTED
CURRENCIES WOULD LIFT THOSE RESTRICTIONS SO THAT THE MONEY
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DOES NOT LIE IDLE, UNUSED FOR THE CHILDREN WHOM IT IS SUPPOSED
TO BENEFIT.

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5. MR. CHAIRMAN, IN UNDERTAKING DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS TO IMPROVE THE CONDITION OF CHILDREN, MOST DEVELOPING COUNTRIES FACE THE PROBLEMS POSED BY RAPIDLY-GROWING POPULATIONS. MOST OF THESE COUNTRIES HAVE RECOGNIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAMS IN THE ACHIEVEMENT OF NATIONAL AS WELL AS FAMILY GOALS FOR A MORE RAPID IMPROVEMENT IN LIVING CONDITIONS. SINCE 1967, UNICEF HAS HAD A MANDATE TO INCLUDE ASSISTANCE IN FAMILY PLANNING AS PART OF ITS MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH SERVICES. LAST YEAR IN THE BOARD'S RESOLUTION ON BASIC SERVICES, DUE RECOGNITION WAS PAID TO THESE SERVICES. HOWEVER, THE ACTUAL ROLE OF UNICEF TO DATE IN THIS FIELD HAS BEEN BASICALLY THAT OF PROCUREMENT AGENCY FOR THE EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIED FUNDED BY THE UN FUND FOR POPULATION ACTIVITIES. MY GOVERNMENT BELIEVES IT BOTH DESIRABLE AND APPROPRIATE FOR UNICEF TO LEND ITS PRESTIGE TO THE ACTIVE PROMOTION OF FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES IN THE BASIC HEALTH CONTEXT THROUGH ITS COUNTRY PROGRAMMING ACTIVITIES.

6. MY DELEGATION FEELS THAT UNLESS POPULATION GROWTH IS CHECKED THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, ALL THAT UNICEF DOES IN BEHALF OF CHILDREN WILL BE MERE PALLIATIVES. WORLD RESOURCES APPEAR FINITE; WE MUST, THEREFORE, SEEK TO ENSURE THAT THERE IS SOME BALANCE BETWEEN THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE AND THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RESOURCES AVAILABLE; OTHERWISE THE CHILDREN OF THE FUTURE IN EVER INCREASING NUMBERS WILL FACE THE SPECTRE OF MAL-NUTRITION, DISEASE, FAMINE, AND DEATH. WE SHALL, THEREFORE, AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME, PROPOSE THAT NEXT YEAR'S BOARD EXAMINE HOW UNICEF CAN UNDERTAKE A MORE ACTIVE AND EFFECTIVE ROLE WITH RESPECT TO FAMILY PLANNING IN CONJUNCTION WITH ITS DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE EFFORTS FOR CHILDREN.

7. THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HAS USED A SLIGHTLY MORE OPTIMISTIC NOTE IN HIS REPORT WITH RESPECT TO THE PLIGHT OF CHILDREN. HE HIMSELF HAS QUALIFIED THIS OPTIMISM WITH THE WARNING THAT IT IS BASED ON CERTAIN STATISTICS AND INTENTIONS MORE THAN ON ACTUAL PERFORMANCE. MY DELEGATION IS GRATIFIED AT THE NEWS

HE BRINGS, BUT WE MUST WARN THAT IT IS FROM IMPLEMENTATION THAT CHILDREN BENEFIT, AND IT IS UP TO US TO PUSH AHEAD WITH

VIGOR AND DETERMINATION TO TURN INTENTIONS INTO REALITY,
PROMISES INTO CARE, HOPE INTO FULFILLMENT.

8. MY DELEGATION WOULD LIKE TO COMMEND THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR THE CONTINUED IMPROVEMENTS IN UNICEF MANAGEMENT. WE NOTE THAT PERSONNEL INCREASES HAVE BEEN HELD TO WHAT SEEMS A MINIMUM, ESPECIALLY IN THE LIGHT OF REDUCED PROGRAM EXPENDITURES AND INCOME IN 1976, AND THAT EVERY EFFORT SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN MADE TO EXAMINE CAREFULLY ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES. MY DELEGATION NOTES WITH APPROVAL THE INITIAL EFFORTS TO INSTALL ZERO-BASE BUDGETING, A PROCESS WHICH THE UNITED STATES ITSELF INTENDS TO PURSUE BEGINNING THIS YEAR. THE APPLICATION OF ZERO-BASE BUDGETING SHOULD ALLOW NEW HIGH PRIORITY PROGRAMS TO BEGIN WITH THE RESOURCES FREED FROM PROGRAMS NO LONGER REQUIRED, AND AT THE SAME TIME PROVIDE THE DONOR COUNTRIES WITH EVEN BETTER JUSTIFICATION OF THE WISE AND EFFICIENT USE OF THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS. IN THIS REGARD MAY I ALSO NOTE AND SUPPORT UNICEF'S CONTINUING EFFORTS TO IMPROVE AND EXPAND ITS EVALUATION AND APPRAISAL EFFORTS. WE MUCH APPRECIATE THE SENIOR UNICEF OFFICIAL'S BACKING FOR THIS PROCESS.
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9. MY DELEGATION ALSO COMMENDS THE EFFORTS REPORTED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO RECRUIT MORE WOMEN FOR UNICEF AND INCREASE THE NUMBER OF THEM IN PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS. WE NOTE THE HIGHER PROMOTION RATE FOR WOMEN. MY DELEGATION HOPES THAT THIS TREND WILL CONTINUE AND THAT WOMEN WILL OCCUPY MORE AND MORE SENIOR POSITIONS.

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 HEW-04 EB-07 AF-10 ARA-06
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10. THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HAS ALLUDED IN HIS REPORT TO THE WORK OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE RESTRUCTURING OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SECTORS OF THE UNITED NATIONS. THAT REPORT RECOMMENDS THAT UNICEF RETAIN ITS SEPARATE IDENTITY, OPERATING PROCEDURES, AND ITS ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME COOPERATING FULLY WITH OTHER ORGANS OF THE UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM. IN OUR VIEW, UNICEF'S UNIQUE ROLE AND THE SPLENDID WORK IT IS DOING, APPEAR TO JUSTIFY CONTINUING RELATIVE INDEPENDENCE OF OPERATION.

11. IN HIS PROGRESS REPORT, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HAS ALSO MENTIONED THE PREPARATIONS WHICH UNICEF HAS UNDERTAKEN IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION WHICH NAMED UNICEF AS THE "LEAD AGENCY" FOR THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD IN 1979. THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HAS TAKEN PROMPT MEASURES TO ORGANIZE A SECRETARIAT WITHIN UNICEF WHICH CAN BEGIN THE LENGTHY PREPARATIONS NECESSARY TO ENSURE THE SUCCESS OF SUCH A YEAR. THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HAS ALSO RECOMMENDED THAT UNICEF CONTRIBUTE TO THE IYC SOME \$2 MILLION FROM GENERAL RESOURCES TO HELP VARIOUS DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN THEIR PARTICIPATION, AND MY DELEGATION SUPPORTS THIS MOVE.

12. AS UNICEF EXPENDS INCREASING SUMS IN THE COMING YEARS ALL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OVER THE WORLD, MY DELEGATION IS ESPECIALLY ANXIOUS THAT

UNICEF MAINTAIN ITS APOLITICAL CHARACTER. IN THIS REGARD WE WOULD EXPECT THAT UNICEF PROGRAMS IN ALL COUNTRIES WILL BE REQUIRED TO MEET THE ESTABLISHED UNICEF PROCEDURES OF PROPER SUPERVISION, INSPECTION, AND ACCOUNTABILITY.

13. ON A BROADER PLANE, HOWEVER, WE WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF, IN THE COURSE OF THE NEXT TWO WEEKS, WE COULD LISTEN TO THE VIEWS OF THE UNICEF SECRETARIAT REGARDING THE ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF UNICEF UNDERATKING AND PREPARING FOR THE NEXT BOARD MEETING A VIGOROUS ANALYSIS OF WHAT UNICEF SHOULD BE LIKE AT SOME APPROPRIATE BENCHMARK POINT IN THE FUTURE, A STOCK-TAKING OF WHERE UNICEF IS NOW, WHAT ASPECTS OF ITS CURRENT ACTIVITIES SHOULD BE PHASED OUT OR DE-EMPHASIZED; WHAT NEW PROGRAMS SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN; IN SUM, THE KING OF UNICEF IN TERMS OF POLICIES, PLACES, AND PEOPLE WE SHOULD BE SEEKING IN ORDER FOR IT TO CONSTRUCT FOR THE FUTURE, TO CARRY OUT EFFECTIVELY THE PROGRAMS AND CONCEPTS OF ITS MANDATE.

14. MR. CHAIRMAN, I HAVE TAKEN A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF TIME IN THIS BODY BUT I DO WANT TO TAKE A MOMENT LONGER TO PAY TRIBUTE TO TWO GROUPS IN ADDITION TO OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND HIS FINE AND DEDICATED STAFF. I REFER TO THE VARIOUS NATIONAL COMMITTEES AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS WHO LABOR MIGHTILY ON BEHALF OF UNICEF TO PRODUCE THE PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE AND SUPPORT OF OUR ACTIVITIES THAT RESULT IN INCREASING PUBLIC AND PRIVATE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CAUSE OF CHILDREN. THESE VOLUNTEER WORKERS BY THE THOUSANDS GIVE THEIR HEARTS AND TIME TO UNICEF. WE OWE THEM A GREAT DEBT, AND WE ARE PROUD TO SALUTE THEM AS COMPANIONS IN THE STRUGGLE TO HELP CHILDREN EVERYWHERE.

15. MAY I SALUTE AND BRING GREETINGS TO HER MANY FRIENDS FROM OUR OWN UNITED STATES COMMITTEE'S DISTINGUISHED AND GRACIOUS HELENKA PANTALEONI.
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16. AND MAY I EXPRESS, ON BEHALF OF MY DELEGATION, OUR MOST SINCERE APPRECIATION TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES FOR THEIR VERY GRACIOUS AND GENEROUS HOSPITALITY IN EXTENDING ITS INVITATION FOR US TO HOLD OUR MEETING HERE. THANK YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN. END TEXT.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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